

Calling all Teachers!



Teachers and educators, please look for a special edition of our newsletter to be published for the upcoming school year. This education edition will include descriptions for Discovery Center field trip offerings for the six interactive workshops.

How to enroll your class for a field trip
Registration for the fall workshops for schools will begin **Monday, July 30, 2007**. Look for our curriculum and package deals to meet the needs of your students. Winter and spring reservations will begin on **Monday, November 5th, 2007**. For each of the workshops, the conservation curriculum includes pre-visit activities. Workshops are designed for a minimum of ten and a maximum of 25 students. To participate, a teacher must attend a teacher orientation. This training will qualify teachers to bring their students to the Discovery Center for one or more of the conservation workshops. You may register your students for a field trip at the same time that you sign up for the orientation. At orientation you will be given your choice of posters and other curriculum materials from our Teacher Resource Center, a Discovery Center t-shirt and an entertaining two hour session.

Teacher Orientation dates are:
Thursday, August 9 from 9 to 11 a.m. or 1 to 3 p.m.
Thursday, September 13 from 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, October 18, from 5 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 8, from 5 to 7 p.m.
News from the Outdoor Teacher Education Resource Center will feature all the upcoming trainings and attractions for you as an educator. School grants, Eagle Day events and other important information will be included.
Home school offerings and dates will be included in this educators edition. The first home school date will be Wednesday September 12. If you currently are not on the home school mailing list please call 816-759-7300 to add your name to the list. About one month before each event a postcard will be sent to homeschool parents telling them about the upcoming special day for their students.

WOW: Kansas City National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School

W.O.W. National Outdoor Recreation and Conservation School is a hands-on learning experience for individuals of all ages and offers a great opportunity for families to share quality time together. W.O.W. provides participants the opportunity to step into Mother Nature's classroom to learn exciting outdoor skills, conservation and ethics components.

Join area families as they learn the basics of camping, outdoor cooking and outdoor skills. Learn how to pitch a tent and camp out on Friday, September 21. Enjoy outdoor cooking and entertainment during the evening. Saturday will find your family being provided not only with breakfast and lunch, but with opportunities to learn outdoor skills such as rock climbing, fishing, and much more.

If you would like to be placed on a mailing list to receive this school's registration materials when they become available, please e-mail the Mo. Department of Natural Resources (moparks@dnr.mo.gov) with your name and postal mailing address. Please call 1-800-334-6946 or (314) 340-5794 with questions. Registration forms can be received by contacting Bob Painter 816-759-2263.

W.O.W. is sponsored by the American National Fish and Wildlife Museum, Wonders of Wildlife; Bass Pro Shops; the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks; United States Forest Service; Missouri Department of Conservation; National Park Service; University of Missouri Outreach and Extension and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



STORYBOOK SATURDAYS

By reservation (Ages 3 and up) Join a Discovery Center Volunteer as they present a story time for children ages three and up. Learn about nature as you listen to stories about bears, foxes, trees and more. What does "Brown Bear See?" What kind of gifts come from the "Giving Tree?" Who is "Lost in the Woods?" Storybook Saturdays will be at 10 a.m. every first and third Saturday of the month. Please register in advance by calling 816-759-7300. Don't miss out on each exciting tale. Saturdays at 10 a.m. on July 7 & 21, August 4 & 18, and September 1 & 15.

Anita B. Gorman Conservation



Discovery Center SUMMER 2007

Bountiful Butterflies

Are you looking to add some new species to your back yard? How about zebra swallowtails, red-spotted purples and regal fritillary butterflies? These species could be new visitors to your yard. Add color to your yard and help pollinate your flowers by planting a butterfly garden. You can start small and build as you have time and space. Here are some considerations when deciding how to attract butterflies to your yard.

- Find a sunny location out of the wind, so butterflies don't have to expend extra energy.
- Choose host plants for caterpillars as well as nectar plants for butterflies.
- Select plants that bloom at various times. You should strive to have blossoms from early spring through late fall, offering a constant source of nectar.
- Provide light colored rocks where butterflies can bask in the sunlight.
- Add cover, like shrubs or evergreens, from storms and predators.



Do mourning cloak butterflies really use butterfly boxes to call home?

- Never use pesticides as this will harm the caterpillars and butterflies. Plants to start with could include butterfly milkweed which blooms May-July, purple coneflower in bloom June-August and cardinal flower blooming from July-October.

Stop by and enjoy the moving beauty in the Discovery Center butterfly garden. To learn about specific plants and which type of butterflies or caterpillars they support, join us for **Insect-O-Rama** on August 11 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. or pick up the *Butterfly Gardening & Conservation* booklet found in the lobby at the Discovery Center.

BUILD A BETTER BOX

If you enjoy seeing butterflies flit through your garden, we could use your help determining the usefulness of butterfly hibernating boxes. We'll take you step by step through the process to make it both fun and easy for you.

STEP ONE: Come to a workshop on Saturday June 9th. During this two hour session you will construct an attractive butterfly hibernating box and learn how to conduct the research project.

STEP TWO: Set up your butterfly hibernating box home in your yard or garden. There you will enjoy its unique charm all summer. Your research occurs during fall when butterflies begin looking for places to over-winter. Do butterflies actually use the hibernating boxes? That is the question you can help us answer! The hibernating boxes are meant to be used by the red admiral and mourning cloak butterflies to take shelter in overwinter. Your observations will be compiled with others collected by the group that constructed the hibernating boxes. Whatever the result, even if only spiders occupy your hibernating boxes, your willingness to help us in our research will provide information for future programs and butterfly enthusiasts.

Do you love to share nature with children and the general public?

Here is your chance to blend the best of both —become a Discovery Center Volunteer. Volunteers must be 18 years or older with a passion for sharing conservation. You will receive training to assist you in giving tours, planting native plants, bird watching, leaf printing, stream table fun and much more. This is your opportunity to learn new skills and be a part of the Missouri Department of Conservation team. Not only will you gain knowledge, but you will gain new friends as a member of our official Discovery Center Volunteer Program. Work with a group of individuals who share a passion about conservation and natural resources.

It's easy, just join our next training session. There will be a total of six sessions, one per week from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., starting on September 20 and ending with a special event for you on October 25. Don't miss out on learning about a variety of topics from MDC policies and procedures to how to build a bird feeder. Each session is guaranteed to bring you skills and abilities in sharing your love of nature with the general public. Contact Kathie May at 759-7305 ext. 2241 or Kathleen.May@mdc.mo.gov and receive details on this yearly training session.



Anita B. Gorman
Conservation
Discovery Center
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DISCOVERY CENTER summer calendar

We think you'll be excited

about our new and varied offerings this summer at the Anita B. Gorman Discovery Center. Activities marked *Walk-in* do not require registration. Those activities that require reservations are marked *By reservation*. **Call 816-759-7300**. Space is limited, so register early! Parents or guardians must accompany children under the age of 12.

june

2 BRUSH CREEK CULTURAL

DISTRICT DAY *Walk-in* (All ages) To help celebrate the Brush Creek Cultural District Day, the Discovery Center will host an open house with special activities in all the workshops. Special events will also be held at Theis Mall near the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

2 CITY SLICKERS HIKING EVENT

By reservation (Ages 6 to adult) Join Appalachian Trail hiker, David Western as he takes us to the Blue River Parkway for a five to six mile hike. The trail rating will be easy for all you City Slickers with rest stops and viewing time. Bring a water bottle, rain gear, and snacks for yourself.
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

9 RESEARCH—Research the Red Admiral and Morning Cloak Butterfly Habitat

By reservation (Ages 10 to adult) We need your help with a little research on adult mourning cloak and the red admiral butterflies. You will begin your research project by constructing an experimental butterfly hibernation box for yourself. This is an attractive garden ornament and conversational piece. We then ask that you help us to do a butterfly study. What will find a home in the newly constructed habitat? Will it be butterflies, ants, or bees?
Saturday, 10 a.m.–12 noon or 1–3 p.m.

9 NATURE PRINTMAKING

Walk-in (All ages) Looking for a way to add a splash of color to your summer decorating plans? Learn to identify Missouri trees while creating colorful monotypes on the etching press with tree leaves and block inks.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

9 MAGNETIC WILDLIFE

Walk-in (All ages) Construct your own special magnet and learn about the wildlife or plant species that will be featured on your newly crafted magnet.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

16 KIDS FISHING

“If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles.”—DOUG LARSON

There is nothing better than fishing on a beautiful summer day. Spend some time at the Discovery Center learning various fishing skills like casting, tying knots, tying your own jig, and more. We will fish in the afternoon (weather permitting). All equipment will be supplied for fishing or you can bring your own. If you are 16 or older you will need a license to fish. Transportation to the fishing site and lunch are not provided.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–2 p.m. (Walk-in activities for all ages)
12:30–2:30 p.m. (Fishing at pond for ages 8+ by reservation only)

23 BACKPACK COOKING 101

Walk-in (Adults) Learn how to use a backpacking stove to cook gourmet meals for your next outdoor adventure. Topics covered will be stove selection, stove usage, cookware, and food.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

23 LEARNING LEAVES

Walk-in (All ages) Is it simple or compound, alternate or opposite? We'll learn simple leaf identification skills, then test our knowledge by correctly classifying leaves using a tree identification maze.
Saturday, 9 a.m. or 3 p.m.

23 WILDHEART IN CONCERT

Reservations welcome (All ages) Ever imitated a lizard or sauntered like a spider? When was the last time you rapped with a reptile or danced on a prairie? You will when WildHeart takes the stage! Ribbit and roll to their original upbeat tunes energized with motion, media and a conservation message. Jan and George Syrigos blend their professional music with life-like puppets and crazy actions for a wild and unforgettable journey through our natural world.
Saturday, 11 a.m.

30 KIDS FISHING

Please see previous description for the same program on June 16.

july

7 REAL ESTATE-4-WRENS

Walk-in (Ages 8 and up with adult) Do house wrens need houses, apartments or duplexes? Help the wren population by providing habitat in the Woodworking for Wildlife workshop. Build a wren house and learn important facts to make this new real estate a hit with the wren population.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

7 FASHION FOR FISHING

Walk-in (All ages) Don't miss out on one of our most popular summer activities. We'll create wearable works of art using textile inks, latex fish and t-shirts. Recycle an old shirt or use one of ours.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

14 WONDERFUL WORMS

By reservation (Ages 5 and up with adult help) Worms create soil, enabling plants to grow. Create your own worm composter from 2-liter bottles, newspaper and some vegetable scraps. We will add worms and top it off with a plant.
Saturday, 10–11:30 a.m. or 1–2:30 p.m.

14 AIR RIFLES

Walk-in (Ages 11 and up) Learn the basic fundamentals of air rifle shooting. Emphasis will be on safety and technique. In the event of inclement weather, we will use the laser shot shooting simulator.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

21 FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

Walk-in (All ages) This program will introduce the wonders of the forest. Crawling through the leaf litter we'll inspect the bark of a fallen tree. High in the reaches of the treetops we'll see who perches up there. Each participant will use natural products to take home their own piece of the forest. (Please dress for the outdoors)
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

28 CAMPFIRE COOKING

Walk-in (All ages) July might be too hot for a campfire, but it's never too hot for a delicious campfire cooked meal! We'll show you how to make the classics like hamburger hobo packs, fire roasted sweet corn or a wild berry cobbler baked in a dutch oven. And of course, there will be plenty of samples for taste testing!
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

28 SQUIRREL FEEDERS

Walk-in (Ages 8 and up with an adult) Are those pesky squirrels getting more than their fair share of your bird food banquet? Join the Woodworking for Wildlife Workshop as we build a squirrel feeder. Learn other ways to prevent losing your bird feed to this non bird resident.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

august

4 BOAT ON A BUDGET

Walk-in (All ages) This workshop will demonstrate how to build a simple 14' canoe out of two sheets of plywood and a few items from the hardware store. We'll focus on the major steps including: a material list, assembling previously cut parts, gluing & clamping joints, to final sealant and paint application. As the summer heat gives way to cool breezes and fall colors, you'll wish you were on the water. After this you'll be ready to build your own.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

4 DUTCH OVEN COOKING

Walk-in (All ages) Learn the basics of Dutch oven cooking from Tim “Dutch” Miller. Topics covered will be dutch oven selection, usage, and care. There will be samples for you to try.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

11 INSECT-O-RAMA

Walk-in (All ages) What's all the Buzzzz about? It's insect fever! Join us for a day of Insect Investigations. On this creepy crawly day of fun you can sweep the prairie, go through metamorphosis, put together puzzling insects, have fun with ladybugs and insect crafts. Become an amateur entomologist as you enjoy a day filled with bee-utiful butterflies, dragonflies and entertaining insects.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

18 INSECT DISPLAY BOXES

By reservation (ages 10 and up) Insects can be fascinating and there are plenty in all of Missouri's habitats to start your very own collection. Learn the tricks of this new hobby by constructing your own display box. Tips on collecting, mounting and labeling your insects will be included so that you are ready to start your trek as an entomologist.
Saturday, 9–11 a.m. or 1–3 p.m.

18 LEAF PRINTING

Walk-in (All ages) Looking for a way to add a splash of color to your fall decorating plans? Learn to identify Missouri trees while creating colorful monotypes on the etching press with tree leaves and block inks.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

25 HIKING IN MISSOURI

Walk-in (All ages) Looking for a new pastime? Missouri is home to hundreds of miles of hiking trails. Learn the basics on how to explore the great outdoors of Missouri. Maps and hiking information will be available as well as some tips about equipment.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

25 GROWING PAPER

Walk-in (All ages) Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—the three R's can guide us in our conservation goals. Today we will focus on the middle “R” as we reuse paper by turning it into new paper with seeds, so it grows. Add it to a card and surprise a friend.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

september

1 CRUISE THE CREEK

Walk-in (All ages) Bring your bicycle down for a leisure ride along Brush Creek. We'll ride mostly on the paved creek trail and gravel trolley trail for a total distance of five miles. Finally, we'll head back towards the Discovery Center for some post-ride refreshments. Meet in the Discovery Center Lobby at 9 a.m. Helmets are required. (All ages welcome—nobody is left behind)
Saturday, 9 a.m.

1 BRUSH CREEK ACTIVITIES

Walk-in (All ages) The creek model in Nature's Aquarium will be on display to show the past 200 years on Brush Creek. What did this neighborhood look like in 1807? How might it look in 2027? Investigate some of the changes, simulate a thunderstorm and even predict the future!
Saturday, 12 p.m.–3 p.m.

8 MONARCH MANIA

Walk-in (All ages) The theme of the day at the Discovery Center will be monarch butterflies. You will have the opportunity to participate in many hands on activities to help you learn about migration, life cycles, tagging and more. Mark your calendars now and join us at the Discovery Center for a day of fluttering fun.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

8 BUTTERFLY HATS

Walk-in (All ages) Flutter about in fashion at Monarch Mania with wings of your own. We'll create colorful butterfly hatbands while learning about the anatomy of a butterfly.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

13 STREAM INSECTS & NYMPH FISHING

Walk-in (Adults) Each time we go trout fishing we learn something new! What are the fish actually eating this time of year? Are they picking flies off the surface or waiting for nymphs to swim by? Join Norm Crisp of Heart of America Flyfishers and Stream Side Adventures as he shows you how to determine what the fish are eating, so you can concentrate on using the correct artificial fly to imitate that prey.
Thursday, 7–9 p.m.

15 LEAFY LOOKS

Walk-in (All ages) Using various leaves, you will create your own, one-of-a-kind nature bandana.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

15 JERKY MAKING

Walk-in (All ages) Learn to use that dehydrator or oven to make delicious jerky treats. Samples will be available for testing your taste buds.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

22 BUTTERFLY GARDENING

Walk-in (All ages) Butterflies are some of our prettiest pollinators. Learn how to bring these beauties into your yard and garden. You will transplant and take home a Missouri native wildflower and explore the Discovery Center butterfly garden.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

22 WHAT'S THAT SCAT?

Walk-in (All ages) Do you know your doo doo? Have a grip on your guano? Animals leave many signs behind but few are as telling as their scat. These unique calling cards tell the animal tracker much about who was there, what was eaten, and even whether it was a male or female in some species! Navigate the scat-enger hunt and learn all you can about nature's number two. We have rubber replicas on hand but some examples will be more authentic!
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

29 FALL BIRDING

Walk-in (All ages) The fall migration season is underway in Missouri. Spend some time being a Discovery Center Ornithologist as you learn about migration routes, identification techniques, conservation updates, and go bird watching. There will be activities for all ages, so make plans now to attend.
Saturday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

29 WILD EDIBLES

Walk-in (All ages) Fall is the best season for shopping nature's pantry. The forests are brimming with walnuts, hickory nuts, pawpaws and persimmons. Learn to identify wild edibles and introduce your taste buds to a tasty wild treat!
Saturday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.